Then you touched upon roads and canals. All these you yourselves say will go to the boards to be newly constituted for dealing with roads and canals. Then as regards the *todu* you mentioned, the matter is under correspondence with the Chief Engineer.

In regard to co-operation, I shall place your suggestions on record so that they may come under consideration when the question of any changes in the Co-operative Department is considered. In regard to the particular society you mentioned I shall ask the Registrar to look into the matter.

184. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. M. N. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Member, Kartikapally taluk*) said that the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should be given a statutory basis. At present it depended for its existence on a mere executive order of the Government.

In regard to the election of members of the Assembly every person who paid a tax of Rs. 25 should be declared eligible to vote at the elections. The franchise should besides be extended to women.

The procedure for the holding of elections should be remodelled. Provision should be made for the presentation of nomination papers by intending candidates, polling of votes *etc.* Voting should be by ballot. Detailed rules should be made for the opening of ballot boxes and counting of votes.

The term of life of each Assembly should be fixed at three years.

The Assembly should be allowed to debate and vote upon all representations of general importance.

Copies of the Government Gazette should be supplied free to members of the Assembly, as was being done formerly.

Members of the Assembly should be given the power of attesting powers of attorney and of administering oaths on affidavits.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Govinda Pillai, I will give a collective answer to all representations on the subject of the reconstitution of the Assembly.

185. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI KRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Kunnatnad taluk, Group I*) said that the Assembly should be given a statutory basis. The Legislative Council should be made responsible to the Assembly for its actions. The Assembly should be given the right of (*a*) debating and voting upon the principles underlying bills of general importance presented in the Legislative Council, the decision of the Assembly on any such bill being binding on the Council; (*b*) passing resolutions on political and financial questions, such resolutions when confirmed by the Legislative Council being binding on Government; (*c*) asking questions; and (*d*) holding general discussions on the annual Budget estimates.

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